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United States
Department
of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northeastern Area
NA-PR-03-97

Threatened & Endangered Species and the Private Landowner





United States
Department of Agriculture



Forest Service

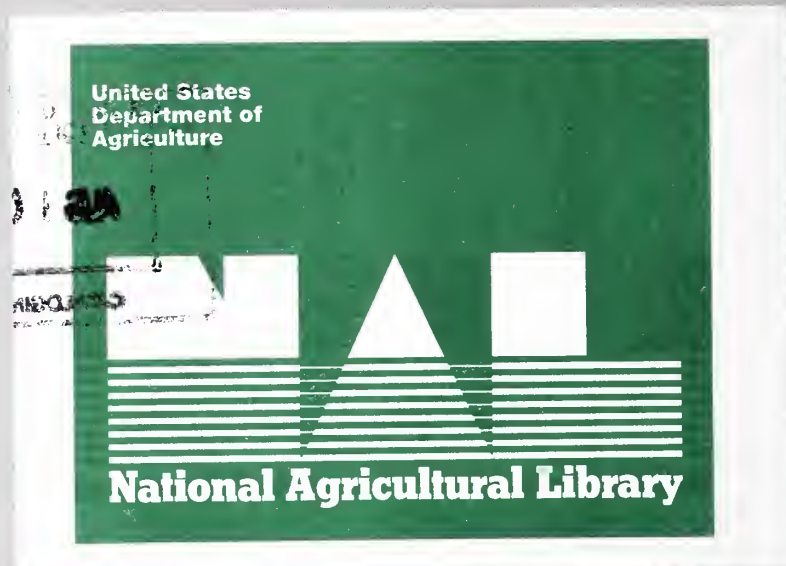


Northeastern Area
State & Private Forestry

Forest Resources
Management

Durham, NH

NA-PR-03-97



“This is the legacy I would like to leave behind:

I would like to have stopped the ridicule about the conservation of snails, lichens, and fungi, and instead move the debate to which ecosystems are the most recoverable and how we can save them, making room for them and ourselves.”

Mollie H. Beattie (1947-1996)

Former Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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COVER: The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, a unit of the USDA Forest Service, serves the twenty states in the Northeast and Midwest, and the District of Columbia. This geographic area, depicted on the cover, is the focus of this brochure.

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The Endangered Species Act is implemented by the Secretary of the Interior through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for terrestrial species. Marine species are handled by the Secretary of Commerce through the National Marine Fisheries Service. For more information on threatened and endangered species see "Where to Go for Assistance" lists in the back of this brochure or contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



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Karner blue butterfly. Photograph by Richard Fields, USFWS

Have you ever asked one of these questions about threatened and endangered species?

- What are threatened and endangered species?
- I wouldn't know an endangered species if I stepped on one; how am I supposed to know if I have one on my property?
- Isn't the process of extinction natural?
- How can I enhance my property to support an endangered or threatened species?
- Will management of my property be regulated if I have an endangered species on it?
- What is the role of Federal and State agencies in the management of threatened and endangered species?
- What can I do to help?

The information in this brochure was assembled after three years of answering questions and listening to concerns from a variety of sources, including natural resource professionals and landowners. This brochure answers the questions listed above and includes the names of Federally listed species. This information will help demystify the subject of threatened and endangered species, sometimes referred to as T&E species.

Threatened and Endangered Species

What is an endangered or threatened species?

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 defines "endangered" as "any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range." "Threatened" is defined as "any species which is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range."

Why do species become endangered?

In many cases, declines in populations of plants and animals are caused by more than one event. Habitat degradation and destruction by humans are the most serious threats to wildlife and plants worldwide. Destruction occurs through development activities; environmental pollution; introduction of invasive, nonnative species; overharvesting of wild species; and conversion of habitat to other uses.

Isn't extinction natural?

Extinction can be and has been a natural process; however, we have accelerated the process to the degree where we can no longer attribute the increasing loss of plants and animals to "natural" processes. Current extinction rates are estimated to be at least ten thousand times greater than natural levels.¹

Which species are threatened or endangered?

See the "Threatened and Endangered Species" list for Federally listed species in the back of this brochure. Check with your State wildlife agency and Natural Heritage Program (See "Where to Go For Assistance" lists) to find out what the threatened and endangered species (T&E Species) are in your state.

Why should I care about an insect (we have plenty of insects), a mussel, or one plant?



American burying beetle
Photograph by
Chris Raithel,
USFWS.

Many species are indicators of environmental quality. When a species is threatened or endangered, it usually means that something is wrong with a resource that we also depend upon. For example, a mussel can act as a water quality indicator: when the mussel is threatened or endangered the quality of the water that we depend upon is most likely degraded. In addition, many plants have given us medicines to treat cancer, heart disease, and other illnesses. Taxol (from the Pacific yew) for the treatment of cancer and digitalis (from foxglove) for the treatment of cardiac arrhythmias are just two examples. Many more medicines may be discovered in the coming years. In addition, each plant and animal is an important part of the balance of the entire community of living things. The loss of even one species can have a significant effect on many others. Species depend upon each other, like parts of the human body, to make a functioning whole.

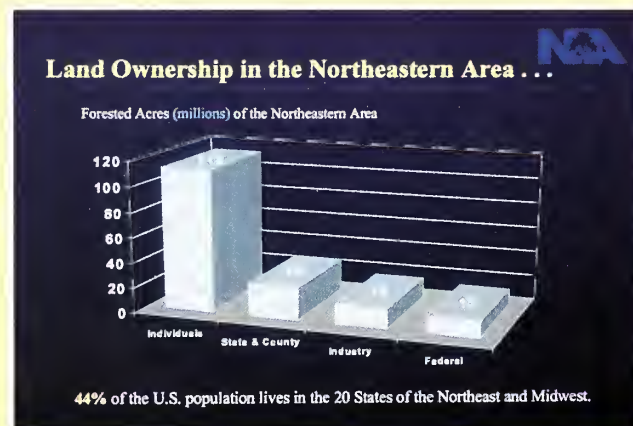


Furbish's lousewort. Photograph provided by USFWS.

Private Property

Is private property important to T&E species?

Yes. Private property is very important in the management and conservation of T&E species because 75 percent of them occur on private land.² And of the nation's forest land, 72 percent is privately owned—a percentage that increases east of the Mississippi River to over 90 percent in Maine.



How do I know if I have an endangered species on my property?

With approximately 1,000 species of plants and animals listed nationwide it can be difficult to know what the T&E species are, what they look like, and what their habitat is. If you need assistance in deter-

mining if an endangered species lives on your property, contact your State Natural Heritage or Natural Areas Program. (See the "Natural Heritage Program" list of "Where to Go for Assistance".) Natural Heritage Programs keep records about the location and biology of many species. They make this information available to landowners, businesses, organizations, and government agencies. In addition, your state has a Threatened and Endangered Species Coordinator, who most often is located at the agency that holds the legal authority for T&E species in your state. These agencies can help you to make an informed decision about how to manage your land.

With so many species of plants listed as threatened or endangered nationwide, is there a good chance that at least one would be located on my property?

Not necessarily. Many of the listed species are localized in their existence. For example, the only known place on earth of a wild population of the furbish's lousewort is along the St. Johns River in Maine, and New Brunswick, Canada.

Is it possible to receive financial help for the management of T&E species?

Yes. The Stewardship Incentive Program is the cost-sharing component of the Forest Stewardship Program. If you are enrolled, you may be eligible to receive financial assistance to enhance the habitat of a threatened or endangered species. Call your State Stewardship Coordinator (see the "Forest Stewardship Program" list of "Where to Go for Assistance") for more information on your State's Forest Stewardship Program. There are also programs offered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that can provide assistance for threatened and endangered species. Call the nearest office for more information. (See inside front cover for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service contacts.)



Peregrine falcon chicks. Photograph by Michael Amaral, USFWS.

State and Federal Regulations

What is the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)?

The Endangered Species Act is a law that was enacted in 1973 for this purpose:

1. To identify animals and plants that are in trouble
2. To protect these plants and animals and their habitat.

What is the difference between a State listed species and a Federally listed species?

States determine standards for listing species that live within the borders of their state regardless of how rare or common they are outside those borders. A Federally listed species must be threatened or endangered throughout all or a significant portion of the geographic range in which it lives.

Which states have some form of legal protection for threatened or endangered animals?

All fifty U.S. states.

Which states have some form of legal protection for threatened or endangered plants?

Some states have protection, some do not. For those states that do, the protection varies from state to state. For information about the legal protection in your state, contact your State's Natural Heritage or Threatened and Endangered Species Coordinator. (See "Where to Go for Assistance" lists.)

Virginia big-eared bat.
Photograph provided by USFWS.



Information, not Limitation

Is it possible to use my property for recreation or timber harvests if a threatened or endangered species lives there?

Absolutely! These activities are often compatible with the existence of a threatened or endangered species and the species may occur within a limited area that can be readily avoided. The contacts listed in this brochure can help you determine what activities would be appropriate if you have a listed species living on your property. For example, to avoid disturbing nesting bald eagles during their breeding period, the agency may recommend that you maintain a protective area around the nest. In most cases, management activities can proceed as planned. In over twenty years (since the enactment of the Endangered Species Act) not a single case seeking compensation for illegal seizure of private property under the Endangered Species Act has come to the U.S. Court of Claims.³

What are the legal restrictions if an endangered species lives on my property?

There are different legal protections for plants and animals.

ANIMAL PROTECTION.

The Federal ESA prohibits "taking" of an endangered or threatened animal.

This means that you cannot "harm, harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect any threatened or endangered species."

"Taking" can also mean habitat alteration resulting in harm to the species. Whether on private or Federal land, whether intentional or unintentional, the "taking" of a listed animal is illegal. Protection in addition to this may be afforded through your State's Endangered Species Act.

PLANT PROTECTION.

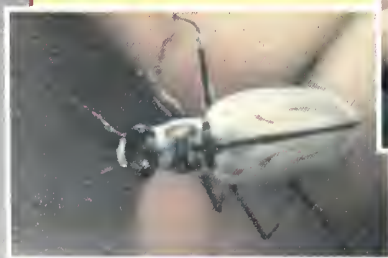
Under the Federal ESA, plants are protected if Federal lands, funds or permits are involved in the action.

For example, if you are a landowner enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program, Federal funds are used to provide you with financial and technical assistance for management on your property. Therefore, you need to comply with the protection given to plants under the Federal ESA. This means that there is protection from malicious destruction of a threatened or endangered plant on your property.

In addition, individual states may have protection for plants. In many states, this is protection of a listed plant from collection without permission from the landowner. This protection is usually afforded through a clause in the State Endangered Species Act. For more detailed information, contact your Natural Heritage Program Coordinator or your State wildlife agency. (See "Where to Go For Assistance" lists.)

If I am a landowner enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program and a threatened or endangered species is discovered on my property, will there be more regulation than if I were not enrolled in the program?

No. The Forest Stewardship Program is voluntary and is a nonregulatory means to provide landowners with technical and financial assistance to make their stewardship vision for their land a reality. Regardless of whether property is in the Forest Stewardship Program or not, the USDA Forest Service (and other Federal agencies) are responsible under the Federal ESA to ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by the agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species. As a result, the resource professional that assists you in preparing your management plan should consider and evaluate (possibly with the help of State wildlife agencies or Natural Heritage Programs) the presence of threatened and endangered species on your property. A description of the situation should be included in the management plan. If a threatened or endangered species lives on your property and management could have an impact on the species, the U.S. Forest Service is required to consult with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Then, within the law, appropriate management recommendations can be made. As previously mentioned, management is typically compatible with the existence of a T&E species. This can also be a great opportunity to help a T&E species!

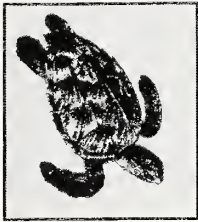


The future of endangered species is in your hands.

Top: Plymouth redbelly turtle. Photograph provided by USFWS.

Middle: Dwarf wedgemussel. Photograph by Chris Fichtel, USFWS.

Bottom: Northeastern beach tiger beetle. Photograph by Tim Simmons.



Where to Go for Assistance State Program Coordinators

Forest Stewardship Program

Connecticut

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NORTHEASTERN AREA INTERNET HOME PAGE
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Where to Go for Assistance
State Program Coordinators

**Endangered Species & Wildlife
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Group Leader
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Where to Go for Assistance State Program Coordinators

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Northeast and Midwest Regions

Federally Threatened and Endangered Species

The Northeast Region (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Region 5) includes the following states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. The Midwest Region (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Region 3) includes the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area, State & Private Forestry serves all these states (with the exception of Virginia) and the District of Columbia.

STATUS CODES:

- T Threatened
- E Endangered
- PT Proposed Threatened
- PE Proposed Endangered

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATE(S)	STATUS
Mammals			
Blue whale ¹	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	oceanic	E
Delmarva peninsula fox squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger cinereus</i>	DE, MD, PA, VA	E
Eastern cougar	<i>Felis concolor couguar</i>	(Region 5)	E
Finback whale ¹	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	oceanic	E
Gray bat	<i>Myotis grisescens</i>	IL, IN, MO, VA	E
Gray wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	ME, MI, MN, WI	E & T
Humpback whale ¹	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	oceanic	E
Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	CT, IA, IL, IN, MD, MI, MO, NJ, NY, OH, PA, VA, VT, WV	E
Ozark big-eared bat	<i>Plecotus townsendii ingens</i>	MO	E
Right whale ¹	<i>Balaena glacialis</i>	oceanic	E
Sei whale ¹	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	oceanic	E
Dismal swamp southeastern shrew	<i>Sorex longirostris fisheri</i>	VA	T
Sperm whale ¹	<i>Physeter catodon</i>	oceanic	E
Squirrel, Virginia northern flying	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus fuscus</i>	VA, WV	E
Virginia big-eared bat	<i>Plecotus townsendii virginianus</i>	VA, WV	E

Birds

American peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	Regions 3 and 5	E
Bachman's warbler	<i>Vermivora bachmanii</i>	VA ²	E
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Region 5, IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI	T
Kirtland's warbler	<i>Dendroica kirtlandii</i>	MI, MD ² , OH, VA ² , WI	E
Least tern	<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	IA, IL, IN, MO	E
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NY, NJ, RI, VA (Atlantic Coast), IA, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI	E & T
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	VA	E
Roseate tern	<i>Sterna dougallii (dougallii)</i>	CT, MA, ME, NY, RI, VA	E

Reptiles

Kemp's (=Atlantic) ridley sea turtle ¹	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	coastal	E
Copperbelly water snake	<i>Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta</i>	IL, IN, MI, OH	PT
Green sea turtle ¹	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	coastal	T
Hawksbill sea turtle ¹	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	coastal	E
Leatherback sea turtle ¹	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	coastal	E
Loggerhead sea turtle ¹	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	coastal	T
Plymouth redbelly turtle	<i>Pseudemys rubriventris bangsi</i>	MA	E
Lake Erie water snake	<i>Nerodia sipedon insularum</i>	OH	PT
Bog turtle	<i>Clemmys muhlenbergii</i>	CT, DE, MA, MD, NJ, NY, PA	PT

Amphibians

Cheat Mountain salamander	<i>Plethodon nettingi</i>	WV	T
Shenandoah salamander	<i>Plethodon shenandoah</i>	VA	E

Fishes

Duskytail darter	<i>Etheostoma (catonotus) sp.</i>	VA	E
Maryland darter	<i>Etheostoma sellare</i>	MD	E
Neosho madtom	<i>Noturus placidus</i>	MO	T
Niangua darter	<i>Etheostoma nianguae</i>	MO	T
Ozark cavefish	<i>Amblyopsis rosae</i>	MO	T
Pallid sturgeon	<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>	IA, IL, MO	E
Roanoke logperch	<i>Percina rex</i>	VA	E
Scioto madtom	<i>Noturus trautmani</i>	OH	E
Shortnose sturgeon ¹	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, RI, VA	E
Slender chub	<i>Erimystax cahni</i>	VA	T
Spotfin chub (=Turquoise shiner)	<i>Cyprinella monacha</i>	VA	T
Yellowfin madtom	<i>Noturus flavipinnis</i>	VA	T

Crustaceans

Hays Springs amphipod	<i>Stygobromus hayi</i>	DC	E
Lee County Cave isopod	<i>Lirceus usdagalun</i>	VA	E
Madison Cave isopod	<i>Antrolana lira</i>	VA	T

Clams

Appalachian monkeyface pearlymussel	<i>Quadrula sparsa</i>	VA	E
Birdwing pearlymussel	<i>Conradilla caelata</i>	VA	E
Clubshell	<i>Pleurobema clava</i>	IL, IN, MI, OH, PA, WV	E
Cracking pearlymussel	<i>Hemistena (Lastena) lata</i>	IN (possibly extirpated ³), OH, VA	E
Cumberland bean pearlymussel	<i>Villosa trabalis</i>	VA	E
Cumberland monkeyface pearlymussel	<i>Quadrula intermedia</i>	VA	E
Cumberlandian combshell	<i>Epioblasma brevidens</i>	VA	E
Curtis' pearlymussel	<i>Epioblasma florentina curtisi</i>	MO	E
Dromedary pearlymussel	<i>Dromus dromus</i>	VA	E
Dwarf wedgemussel	<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>	CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, NH, NJ, NY, PA, VA, VT	E

Clams continued

Fanshell	<i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i> (=C. irrorata)	IL, IN, OH, PA, VA, WV	E
Fat pocketbook	<i>Potamilus capax</i>	IA, IL, IN, MO, OH	E
Fine-rayed pigtoe mussel	<i>Fusconaia cuneolus</i>	VA	E
Green blossom pearlymussel	<i>Epioblasma</i> (=Dysnomia) <i>torulosa gubernaculum</i>	VA (extirpated ³)	E
Higgins' eye pearlymussel	<i>Lampsilis higginsii</i>	IA, IL, MN, MO, WI	E
James River spinymussel	<i>Pleurobema collina</i>	VA, WV	E
Little-wing pearlymussel	<i>Pegias fabula</i>	VA	E
Northern riffleshell	<i>Epioblasma torulosa rangiana</i>	IL, IN, MI, OH, PA, WV, IL, IN, MI	E
Orange-foot pearlymussel	<i>Plethobasus cooperianus</i>	IL, IN (possibly extirpated ³), OH	E
Oyster mussel	<i>Epioblasma capsaeformis</i>	VA	PE
Pink mucket pearlymussel	<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>	IL, IN, MO, OH, PA, WV, VA (extirpated ³)	E
Purple cat's paw pearlymussel	<i>Epioblasma</i> (=dysnomia) <i>obliquata obliquata</i>	OH	E
Ring pink mussel	<i>Obovaria retusa</i>	IN (possibly extirpated ³), OH	E
Rough pigtoe	<i>Pleurobema plenum</i>	IN, VA	E
Rough rabbitsfoot	<i>Quadrula cylindrica strigillata</i>	VA	PE
Shiny pigtoe	<i>Fusconaia cor</i> (edgariana)	VA	E
Tan riffleshell	<i>Epioblasma walkeri</i>	VA	E
Tubercled-blossom pearlymussel	<i>Epioblasma</i> (=Dysnomia) <i>torulosa torulosa</i>	IL, IN (possibly extirpated ³), WV	E
White cat's paw pearlymussel	<i>Epioblasma obliquata perobliqua</i>	IN, OH (possibly extirpated ³)	E
White wartyback pearlymussel	<i>Plethobasus cicatricosus</i>	IL, IN (possibly extirpated ³), OH	E
Winged mapleleaf mussel	<i>Quadrula fragosa fragosa</i>	IL, IN, IA, MO, OH, MN, WI	E

Snails

Chittenango ovate amber snail	<i>Succinea chittenangoensis</i>	NY	T
Flat-spined three-toothed snail	<i>Triodopsis platysayoides</i>	WV	T
Iowa Pleistocene snail	<i>Discus macclintocki</i>	IA, IL	E
Virginia fringed mountain snail	<i>Polygyriscus virginianus</i>	VA	E

Insects

American burying beetle (=giant carrion)	<i>Nicrophorus americanus</i>	MA, RI, VA	E
Karner blue butterfly	<i>Lycaeides melissa samuelis</i>	IL, IN, MA, MI, MN, NH, NY, OH, PA, WI	E
Hine's (=Ohio) emerald dragonfly	<i>Somatochlora hineana</i>	IL, IN, OH, WI	E
Hungerford's crawling water beetle	<i>Brychius hungerfordi</i>	MI	E
Mitchell's satyr butterfly	<i>Neonympha mitchellii mitchellii</i>	IN, OH, MI, NJ	E
Northeastern beach tiger beetle	<i>Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis</i>	CT, MA, MD, NJ, NY, RI, VA	T
Puritan tiger beetle	<i>Cicindela puritana</i>	CT, MA, MD, NH, VT	E

Plants

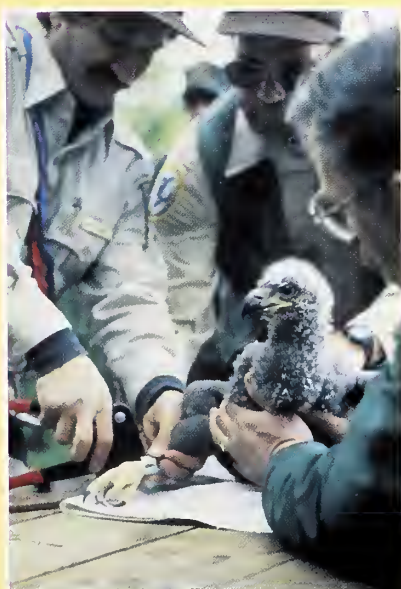
American chaffseed	<i>Schwalbea americana</i>	CT, DE, MA, MD, MI, NJ, NY, VA	E
American hart's-tongue fern	<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i> var. <i>americanum</i>	NY, MI	T
Canby's dropwort	<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>	DE, MD	E
Decurrent false aster	<i>Boltonia decurrens</i>	IL, MO	T
Dwarf lake iris	<i>Iris lacustris</i>	MI, WI	T
Eastern prairie fringed orchid	<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>	IA, IL, IN, ME, MI, MO, NJ, NY, OH, PA, VA, WI	T
Fassett's locoweed	<i>Oxytropis campestris</i> var. <i>chartacea</i>	WI	T
Furbish's lousewort	<i>Pedicularis furbishiae</i>	ME	E
Geocarpon (no common name)	<i>Geocarpon minimum</i>	MO	T
Harperella	<i>Ptilimnium nodosum</i> (=fluviatile)	MD, WV	E
Houghton's goldenrod	<i>Solidago houghtonii</i>	MI, MI, NY	T
Jesup's milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus robbinsi</i> var. <i>Jesupi</i>	NH, VT	E
Knieskern's beaked-rush	<i>Rhynchospora knieskernii</i>	DE, NJ	T
Lakeside daisy	<i>Hymenoxys herbacea</i>	IL, OH	T
Leafy prairie-clover	<i>Dalea foliosa</i>	IL	E
Leedy's roseroot	<i>Sedum integrifolium</i> var. <i>leedyi</i>	MN, NY	T
Mead's milkweed	<i>Asclepias meadii</i>	IA, IL, IN, MO, WI	T
Michaux sumac	<i>Rhus michauxi</i>	VA	T
Michigan monkey-flower	<i>Mimulus glabratus</i> var. <i>michiganensis</i>	MI	E
Minnesota dwarf trout lily	<i>Erythronium propullans</i>	MN	E
Missouri bladderpod	<i>Lesquerella filiformis</i>	MO	E
Northeastern (=barbed bristle) bulrush	<i>Scirpus ancistrochaetus</i>	MA, MD, NY, PA, VA, VT, WV	E
Northern wild monkshood	<i>Aconitum noveboracense</i>	IA, NY, OH, WI	T
Peter's mountain mallow	<i>Illiamna corei</i>	VA	E
Pitcher's thistle	<i>Cirsium pitcheri</i>	IL, IN, MI, WI	T
Pondberry	<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>	MO	E
Prairie bush-clover	<i>Lespedeza leptostachya</i>	IA, IL, MN, WI	T
Price's potato-bean	<i>Apios priceana</i>	IL (possibly extirpated ³)	T
Robbins' cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla robbinsiana</i>	NH, VT	E
Running buffalo clover	<i>Trifolium stoloniferum</i>	IL, IN, MO, OH, WV	E
Sandplain gerardia	<i>Agalinis acuta</i>	CT, MA, MD, NY, RI	E
Seabeach amaranth	<i>Amaranthus pumilus</i>	DE, MA, MD, NJ, NY, RI, VA	T
Sensitive joint-vetch	<i>Aeschynomene virginica</i>	DE, NJ, MD, PA, VA	T
Shale barren rock-cress	<i>Arabis serotina</i>	VA, WV	E
Small whorled pogonia	<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>	CT, DE, IL, MA, ME, MI, NH, NJ, PA, RI, VA	T
Smooth coneflower	<i>Echinacea laevigata</i>	MD, PA, VA	E
Swamp pink	<i>Helonias bullata</i>	DE, MD, NJ, NY, VA	T
Virginia round-leaf birch	<i>Betula uber</i>	VA	T
Virginia spiraea	<i>Spiraea virginiana</i>	PA, VA, WV	T
Western prairie fringed orchid	<i>Platanthera praeclara</i>	IA, MN, MO	T

NOTES

1. Except for sea turtle nesting habitat, principal responsibility for these species is vested with the National Marine Fisheries Service.
2. Accidental = not typically found in area.
3. Extirpated = a species that has disappeared from the state but exists elsewhere.



Healthy Ecosystems Are Beneficial to All



Protecting an ecosystem with several threatened or endangered species (rather than focusing on a single species) can prevent the decline of other species in that community. Some species, such as those plants used for medicines, directly benefit people. Species yet undiscovered, or known species with undiscovered benefit, inhabit the same communities as those with recognized benefit. But perhaps the most compelling reason for the conservation of threatened and endangered species is that we have the ability to make a difference in the lives of our fellow passengers on this earth.

Top: Bald eagle in nest with chicks. Photo provided by USFWS. **Left:** U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologists banding an eagle chick. Photo by Michael Amaral, USFWS.



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Fact or Fallacy?

Many land management projects have been stopped because of a threatened or endangered species.

Fallacy: Of more than 100,000 Federally funded or authorized projects with endangered species issues in the last fifteen years, only thirty-four projects were stopped because of major impacts to the species.⁴

We need your help!



Bald eagle nestling.

Photograph by Michael Amaral, USFWS.

All threatened and endangered species require undisturbed habitat and a "leave it alone and keep out policy" to ensure survival.

Fallacy: Two examples:

- The small whorled pogonia is a Federally threatened plant species and one of the rarest wild orchids in eastern North America. It occurs primarily in areas with signs of human activity: former pasture land and areas with timber harvest histories.
- The Karner blue is a rare butterfly that is found in open pine barrens and oak savannas where populations of wild lupine exist. Historically, wildfire maintained these ecosystems. More recently, habitat of the Karner blue butterfly has been lost, in part, because of the suppression of wildfire. Resource professionals are now considering controlled burns and mechanical removal of shrubs and trees as means of saving the butterfly.

There are animals and plants, However, that do not tolerate disturbance well. For example, some plants do not tolerate open conditions (i.e., from forest canopy removal) well. Alterations of natural habitats may be detrimental to these populations. In addition, there are a number of endangered and threatened plants for which the effects of management or disturbance are not known. Many landowners allow research to take place on their property so that we all can learn more about the effects of management on T&E species.

It is pointless to attempt to save threatened and endangered species because efforts to date have not been successful.

Fallacy: There are a number of success stories, due in large part to protection afforded by the Endangered Species Act and the dedicated people who work with T&E species. Examples of such species are the peregrine falcon, bald eagle, American alligator, brown pelican and small whorled pogonia.

On the other hand, many species are on the waiting list for protection, and some have become extinct while waiting to be listed and protected under the Endangered Species Act. The Act does not work miracles, but it also does not cause the economic disaster that some claim it does. A number of species would have been extinct today if they had not received protection under the Act. In addition, many project efforts to list and protect species are understaffed and underfunded.

It is best to keep information regarding the location of species out of the hands of the private landowner.

Fallacy: With 94 percent of the forest land in the Northeast and Midwest in private ownership, many private landowners already play an important role in the management of threatened and endangered species. The USDA Forest

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

■ Learn more about threatened and endangered species in your state as well as the Federally listed species. Share the information with family, friends, coworkers, and others.

■ Report the presence of a threatened or endangered species to your local U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service office, State wildlife agency or Natural Heritage Program office (see "Where to go For Assistance" lists). Many of these programs have received valuable information from landowners.

■ Write to your Congressional representatives. Let them know that endangered species protection and healthy forests are important for all.

■ Get involved in land management or backyard programs offered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, or state agencies that offer financial or technical assistance.

■ Contact your State T&E species and Natural Heritage Program Coordinators to find out if you have a threatened or endangered species on your property.

Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, State wildlife agencies, and State Natural Heritage Programs have a great desire to work with landowners who want to conserve species on their property.

REFERENCES

1. 1977 Species Report Card, The State of U.S. Plants and Animals, The Nature Conservancy.
2. U.S. General Accounting Office, 1994.
3. 5 Messages on the ESA, 1995, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
4. What If an Endangered Species Lives on Your Property? 1995, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.